

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06526 191338Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
DODE-00 OES-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 MCT-01  
COME-00 NSF-01 SSM-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00  
PRS-01 /097 W

-----191343Z 007531 /43

O R 191305Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4025

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EG IS JO CGEN

SUBJ: DETAINING U.S. OWNED VESSEL ATLANTIS THE SECOND

REF: CAIRO 6440

1. ACCORDING TO GOE MINISTRY OF WAR OFFICIAL, PROBLEM OF ATLANTIS II HAS BEEN RESOLVED, WHATEVER IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, AND VESSEL COMMENCED PASSAGE OF CANAL APRIL 19. THIS INFORMATION RESULTED FROM CALL EARLIER THAT DAY BY AMBASSADOR, AT SUGGESTION OF DEPPRIMIN/FONMIN FAHMY (REFTEL), ON DEPPRIMIN AND MINWAR GAMASSY. LATTER HAD NOT HEARD OF PROBLEM AND SAID HE WAS SURE HE WOULD HAVE IF BOYCOTT BLACKLISTING HAD BEEN FACTOR. GAMASSY UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO MATTER. FOLLOWUP BY MEMBER OF HIS STAFF RESULTED IN NEWS THAT SHIP HAS DEPARTED SUEZ AT 1115 LOCAL TODAY AND IS NOW PRESUMABLY IN TRANSIT THROUGH CANAL.

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2. NAVATT HAD EARLIER BEEN TOLD BY CANAL AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN MASHOUR, ALSO ON 19TH, THAT CANAL WAS CLOSED SEVERAL DAYS RECENTLY DUE TO SAND STORMS. MASHOUR, WHO SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF ANY PROBLEM IN CONNECTION WITH ATLANTIS II, COPINED THAT FACT SOME 100 SHIPS WERE AWAITING PASSAGE ACCOUNTED FOR DELAY. HE, TOO, SAID HE WOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED IF THERE WERE A BOYCOTT-RELATED QUESTION.

3. MASTER OF VESSEL NEVER CONTACTED EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE AND NOTHING HAD BEEN HEARD FROM AMCIT PASSENGERS ON BOARD OR WAITING TO BOARD SINCE DESPATCH OF REFTEL.

4. COMMENT: VARYING EXPLANATIONS FOR REPORTED DELAY OF VESSEL AT SUEZ HAVE BEEN ELICITED BY OUR ENQUIRIES. MINWAR OFFICIAL (PARA 1 ABOVE) IMPLIED THAT E HAD BEEN NO REPEAT NO UNDUE DELAY, NOTING ATLANTIS ARRIVED SUEZ APRIL 17, WAS CLEARED SAME DAY TO PROCEED THROUGH CANAL, TOLL FEES WERE PAID 18TH, REPAIRS TO SHIP'S RADAR WERE ORDERED BY CAPTAIN IN SUEZ, AND VESSEL PROCEEDED 19TH. PASSENGERS WHO REPORTED BOYCOTT DIFFICULTIES MAY HAVE FURNISHED ACCURATE INFORMATION, OF COURSE, BUT NO REPEAT NO GOE AUTHORITY HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THIS AS FACTOR TO US AND VESSEL REPORTEDLY IS AGAIN UNDERWAY. IN ABSENCE DIRECT CONTACT WITH CAPTAIN, WE ARE UNABLE TO RESOLVE INCONSISTENCIES IN ACCOUNTS TO US OF, FOR EXAMPLE, EXACTLY HOW LONG VESSEL WAS HELD UP AT SUEZ BY FACTORS OTHER THAN WEATHER, SHIP'S REPAIRS OR UNUSUAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, INCLUDING PAYMENT OF CANAL FEES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** CGEN, EG, IS, JO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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